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# 1. Signatures

## Signature of the Person Required to Prepare this FSP:

Atco Wood Products Ltd.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Stemmler, RPF #3129  
Woodlands Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Signature of Preparing Forester:

Preparing Forester

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adam Rodgers, RPF #4469  
Planning Forester

*"I certify that the work described herein fulfills the standards expected of a member of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals."*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Interpretation

### 2.1 Definitions under Acts and Regulations

Unless specifically indicated otherwise, terms used in this Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) have the same meaning as they are defined in relevant British Columbia acts and regulations.

### 2.2. Definitions Specific to this FSP

**“FRPA Value”** means one or more of the following:

- a) Soils
- b) Visual quality
- c) Timber
- d) Forage and associated plant communities
- e) Water
- f) Fish
- g) Wildlife
- h) Biodiversity
- i) Recreation resources
- j) Resource features
- k) Cultural heritage resources

**“Qualified Professional”** means a person to be qualified, in terms of appropriate levels of education, training, and experience (skill sets), to conduct the activities described. Where the activities fall within the scope of practice of members of a professional regulatory body this person will be a Qualified Registered Professional.

**“Qualified Registered Professional”** means a person who:

- (a) has the appropriate education, training and experience to carry out the activity; and
- (b) is a member of, or licensed by, a regulatory body in British Columbia that has the legislated authority to regulate its members' performance of the activity.

**“Reasonable opportunity for review and comment”** means a written referral letter (either mailed or sent electronically), provided by Atco Wood Products Ltd. with a specified time (see section 4.0 – operational forest development referrals) allowed for providing comments in order for the comments to be considered.

### 2.3. Objectives, Results, Strategies and Measures

The Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) requires that a FSP specify results or strategies in relation to objectives set by government and to specify measures related to invasive plants and natural range barriers. With regard to these requirements, the following interpretations have been used in the preparation of this FSP:

**“Objective”** means an objective that is set by government, in legally established land use plans, in regulation, or enabled through regulation, for managing and protecting forest and range values.

**“Result”** means a description of measurable or verifiable outcomes for a particular established objective and the situations or circumstances that determine where the outcomes will be applied.

**“Strategy”** means a description of measurable or verifiable steps or practices that will be carried out to meet a particular established objective, and the situations or circumstances that determine where the steps or practices will be applied.

**“Measure”** means a course of action taken or planned to achieve a particular purpose. With regard to FSPs, measures must be specified to (1) prevent the introduction or spread of invasive plants and (2) mitigate the effect of removing or rendering ineffective natural range barriers. Measures are intended to be reasonable and appropriate when considering what is likely to be effective and what is practicable.

**“Measurable”** means with respect to Results and Strategies to be able to be measured, qualified or calculated.

**“Verifiable”** means with respect to Results and Strategies to be able to be verified, proven, authenticated or demonstrated.

## 2.4. Common Acronyms Used in forestry and occasionally within this FSP.

<p><b>AWP:</b> Atco Wood Products Ltd.  <b>BCTS:</b> British Columbia Timber Sales  <b>BEC:</b> Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification  <b>CFLB:</b> Contributing Forest Land Base  <b>CHR:</b> Cultural Heritage Resource  <b>CP:</b> Cutting Permit  <b>CRA:</b> Controlled Recreation Area  <b>DDM:</b> Delegated Decision Maker  <b>FDU:</b> Forest Development Unit  <b>FL:</b> Forestry Licence  <b>FPC:</b> Forest Practices Code of BC Act  <b>FPPR:</b> Forest Planning and Practices Regulation  <b>FRPA:</b> Forest and Range Practices Act  <b>FRR:</b> Forest Recreation Regulation  <b>FSP:</b> Forest Stewardship Plan  <b>GAR:</b> Government Actions Regulation  <b>GWM:</b> General Wildlife Measure  <b>ILMB:</b> Integrated Land Management Bureau  <b>KBHLPO:</b> Kootenay-Boundary Higher Level Plan Order  <b>KLC:</b> Kalesnikoff Lumber Co. Ltd  <b>LU:</b> Landscape Unit</p>	<p><b>MFLNRO:</b> Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  <b>NDT:</b> Natural Disturbance Type  <b>OGMA:</b> Old Growth Management Area  <b>QP:</b> Qualified Professional  <b>QRP:</b> Qualified Registered Professional  <b>RMZ:</b> Riparian Management Zone  <b>RP:</b> Road Permit  <b>RPF:</b> Registered Professional Forester  <b>RRZ:</b> Riparian Reserve Zone  <b>SAR:</b> Species at Risk  <b>SU:</b> Standards Unit  <b>TSA:</b> Timber Supply Area  <b>TSR:</b> Timber Supply Review  <b>UWR:</b> Ungulate Winter Range  <b>VIA:</b> Visual Impact Assessment  <b>VQO:</b> Visual Quality Objective  <b>WHA:</b> Wildlife Habitat Area  <b>WHF:</b> Wildlife Habitat Feature  <b>WTP:</b> Wildlife Tree Patch  <b>WTRA:</b> Wildlife Tree Retention Area</p>
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## 3. Application of the FSP

### 3.1 Term of the FSP

Legal Reference: FRPA s 6(1)(a), 6(2), & 14

The term of this FSP is five years, commencing from the date of approval by the Delegated Decision Maker (DDM) for the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations or another date as specified by the DDM.

### 3.2 Content Requirements

Content requirements of a FSP are described in the FRPA and its associated FPPR.

A separate document, **Atco Wood Products Ltd Forest Stewardship Plan Supporting Document**, provides supporting (non-legal) information for this plan. The supporting document is prepared to ensure a consistent and collaborative approach to planning is undertaken within Atco’s operations.

### 3.3 Forest Development Units (FDU’s)

This FSP covers the Forest Development Units for the entire Arrow and Kootenay Lake TSA’s, excluding private land, parks, area based tenures, and tree farm licenses. Operating areas have been assigned to Atco Wood Products (AWP) under the authority of FL A20193 (Arrow TSA) and FL A20218 (Kootenay Lake TSA). The location of development external to AWP current operating areas may occur from time to time, for incidental reasons. FDU overlap is integrated into the various sections of this FSP, and collaboration with other forest license holders will enable the successful achievement of objectives.

**Table 1: Current Operating Areas**

TSA	Operating Area Letter	Operating Area Name
Arrow	A	Ladybird
	B	Nancy Green North (NGN)
	C	Nancy Green South (NGS)
	D	Mackie
	E	Murphy
	F	Nancy Green Highland (NGH)
	G	Sheppard
	H	Ryan
	I	Jordan
	J	Champion
	K	Erie
	L	Wright
	M	Query
	N	Divide
	O	Linnie
	P	Pend D’Oreille North
	Q	Pend D’Oreille South
	R	Siwash
	T	Boulder
	U	East Erie
V	Lead	
W	Ymir	
Kootenay Lake	S	Kootenay Lake

### 3.3.1 New FDU's & Rationale

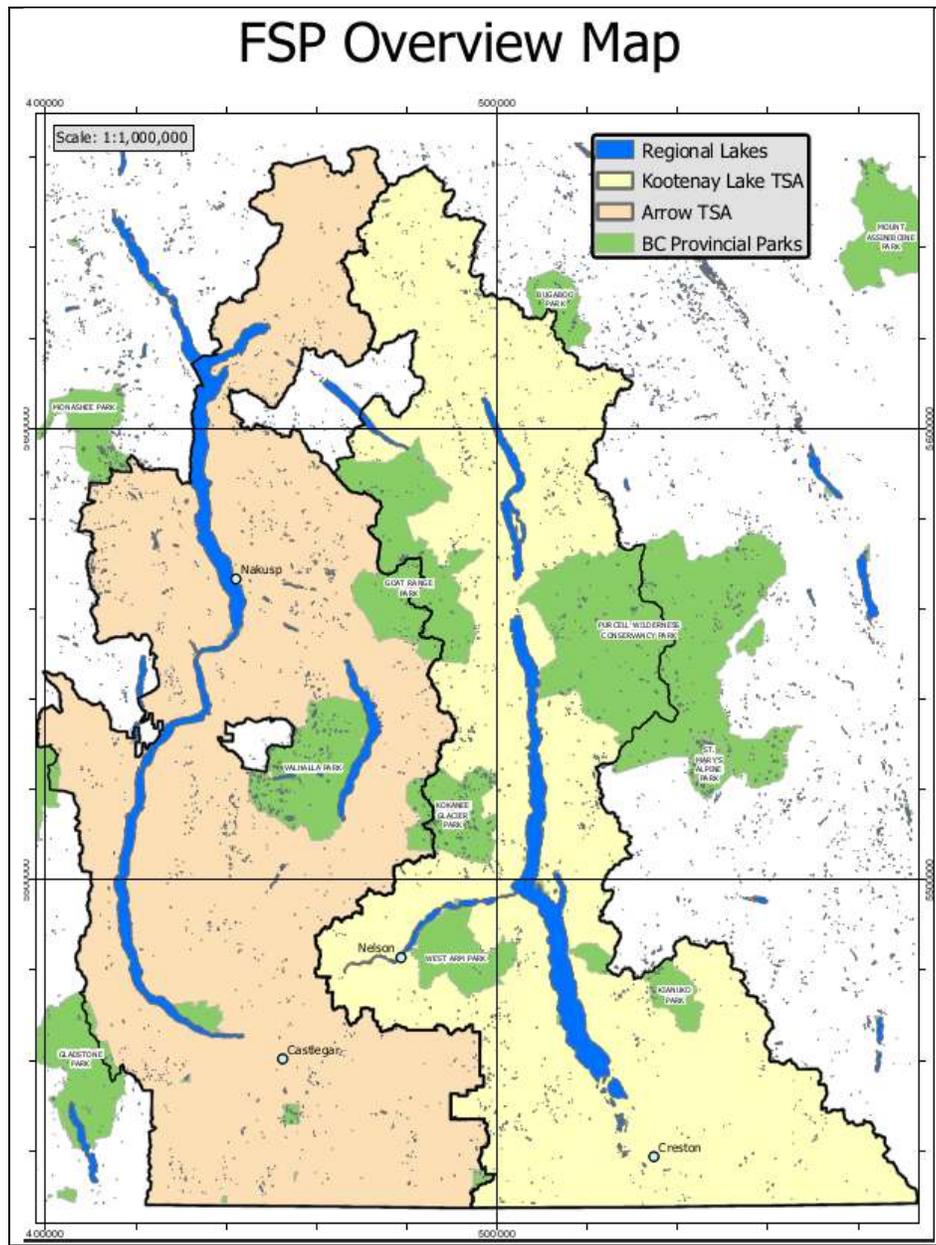
Legal Reference: FPPR, s14

New FDU's: The overview map in Figure 1 shows the 2 FDU's comprising this FSP.

With regard to covering FDU area outside Atco's operating (Chart) area, the intent is to avoid FSP amendments made to allow road access, topographic breaks, licensee operating area switching and other logistical measures.

Appendix I contains a map of the Arrow and Kootenay Lake FDU's. Figure 1 illustrates the overview of both FDU's.

Figure 1 – FDU overview map



## 4. Public Review and Comment

Legal reference:

FPPR Section 20, 21 and 22

### **Forest Stewardship Plan Notification and Stakeholder Referral:**

The general public was made aware the Forest Stewardship Plan was available for review and comment through notices placed in local newspapers and through referral notices that were emailed or mailed out to potentially affected stakeholders. Atco is committed to meeting with any stakeholder who wants further information, or has concerns or further questions. A copy of the public notice and referral list of stakeholders (including First Nations) who received letters or emails are included in Appendix II.

The Forest Stewardship Plan was made available for public review and comment at the licence holder's office during regular business hours 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday for a period of 60 days (April 29, 2022 to June 28, 2022). In these referral notices Atco has encouraged any affected stakeholders and First Nations representatives to meet to discuss the Forest Stewardship Plan. A copy of the First Nations and Stakeholders referral letters are provided in Appendix III.

### **Public and Stakeholder's Comment:**

Appendix IV contains a summary of the public/ stakeholder referrals sent, comments received and associated response.

Written comments specific to the Forest Stewardship Plan have been recorded and kept on record to ensure that concerns are considered at the development stage.

### **Operational-Forest Development Referrals:**

The licence holder is committed to collaborative planning and will refer all forest development - site level plans (i.e. roads and cut-blocks) to potentially affected stakeholders. The referral provides an opportunity to review the proposed development to the extent a stakeholders' rights may be affected. The written notice will provide stakeholders with a minimum 30 day review and comment period prior to cutting permit or road permit application. The notice may be reduced to 10 days if timber is dead, infested with pests or otherwise damaged; and must be harvested expeditiously to prevent spread of pests or declining timber value due to deterioration of quality.

## 5. Results and Strategies for Objectives Set by Government

### **5.1 Land Use Objectives**

The area under this FSP is within the scope of the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order (KBHLPO) effective October 26, 2002, and all approved variances to it. Where there is a conflict between the KBHLPO and objectives set by FRPA and/or FPPR, the KBHLPO objectives and strategies will prevail to the extent of the discrepancy.

Unless specified under each objective, it is assumed the Results and Strategies apply to both FDU's.

#### **5.1.1 Biodiversity Emphasis**

<u>Objective:</u>	To contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, through the assignment of biodiversity emphasis to each landscape unit.
<u>Legal Reference:</u>	KBHLPO – Objective 1
<u>Relates to:</u>	s 5.1.2 of this document.

**Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

The licence holder will comply with Objective 1 of Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order.

**5.1.2 Old and Mature Forest**

<u>Objective:</u>	To maintain mature forests and old forests to levels indicated in the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan.
<u>Legal Reference:</u>	KBHLPO, Objective 2
<u>Relates to:</u>	s 5.1.1 of this document.

**Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

The licence holder will comply with Objective 2 of Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order.

**Old Forest:**

OGMA is established to provide representative examples of Old Forest values, and to support the conservation of other important values, such as wildlife habitat, connectivity, rare ecosystems, recreation and cultural-heritage.

Old Forest targets, applying to all FDUs, are currently achieved and managed with non-legal spatialized OGMA, as a surrogate to managing Old Forest targets aspatially.

The licence holder subscribes to the Higher Level Plan Objectives Reporting Suite. The ‘Selkirk Suite’ allows users to produce reports reflecting the rules embodied in the KBHLPO for meeting Old Forest requirements. If old targets are not met spatially by OGMA then the target deficit will be met aspatially with old forest outside OGMA.

The license holder commits to meeting full legal seral stage distribution targets and tracking of activity where cutting or road permits are proposed. Where full legal Old targets cannot be met, the license holder will prepare a recruitment strategy, in the shortest possible timeframe, and will share this strategy with other Selkirk Suite subscribers.

The license holder will use a QRP to ascertain when harvesting is acceptable within an OGMA or Ancient Forest, and where a replacement is required. Harvesting will not take place in an OGMA or Ancient Forest, except when:

1. Access is required and where another location would result in a greater risk to one or more FRPA values;
2. Fuel reduction treatments are located within a wildland urban interface;
3. Sufficient biological Old Forest characteristics (as defined in superscript 'K' of table 2.6 of the KBHLPO) are rendered ineffective by natural events including wind or fire or by biological agents including insects or disease;
4. Old Forest characteristics are not present in the OGMA but are located in surplus elsewhere in the LU / BEC combination, and an equal or better replacement location is provided.
5. For safety or operational reasons including yarder halos, tailholds, guyline tiebacks, and removal of danger trees.

The Old Growth Management Strategy allows the licence holder to manage the Old Forest distribution based on current information. Modifications to the boundaries of established OGMA's or ancient forest can be implemented as long as the modification is replaced by a commensurable area with similar or better forest attributes. The Qualified Registered Professional (QRP) determines when a forest stand has sufficient biological value to be an Old Forest (as per superscript "k" of Table 2.6 of the KBHLPO).

If a non-incident amendment or replacement is to be done (areas >0.25ha), it will be assessed by a registered professional biologist or ecologist.

The prescribing QRP will identify replacement OGMA's that maintain either similar forest attributes as found in the original OGMA or enhance old forest attributes; while also focusing on other important values, such as wildlife habitat, rare ecosystems, recreation, First Nations cultural values and cultural values of communities within the Kootenays. In addition, there is a preference to locate replacement OGMA's where harvesting constraints provide the best long term potential for stands to develop old forest attributes associated with advanced age. The amount of old or ancient forest within an OGMA will be maximized.

OGMA modifications will be field assessed and approved by a QRP, where a written rationale and accompanying map denoting the modifications will be prepared and kept on record in the license holder's office. As part of the information sharing package sent to First Nations, the license holder will identify when an OGMA modification has occurred and will provide documentation upon request. Proposed Changes to OGMA's will be sent to the MFLNRO prior to cutting permit or road permit application.

When considering potential OGMA replacements the key old growth attributes are collected using a score card. A RPF will use this card as part of the replacement rationale. Evaluations include age, large branches, dead tops, scars/conks, cavity nesting bird holes, proximity to riparian or unique old features, wildlife value, size (diameter & height) and contiguity with adjacent OG.

There are circumstances where very minor tree removal <0.25ha is required within OGMA's to facilitate harvesting and or safety. These are danger tree hazards adjacent forest activities and where tail holds or guy line tiebacks are required for cable harvesting. The QRP will write a rationale for these situations and extra effort will be made to minimize these circumstances.

### **Mature plus Old Forest:**

The mature plus old requirements apply to the current Arrow FDU within the Landscape Units (LU) and BEC subzones / variants as shown below:

<b>LU</b>	<b>BEC subzone/ variant</b>	<b>BEO</b>
N501-Sheep Creek	ICHdw	intermediate
N504-Pend'Oreille	ICHdw	intermediate
N505-Stagleap	ICHdw	intermediate
N508-Blueberry	ICHdw	intermediate
N509-Dog	ICHdw	intermediate
N511-Cayuse	ICHdw	intermediate

It is the responsibility of the licence holder to determine existing seral stage distribution and levels of Mature plus Old Forest in which Landscape Unit they operate. The Selkirk Suite will be used to produce reports reflecting the rules embodied in the KBHLPO for meeting Mature plus Old Forest requirements.

GeoData BC provides source planning data for the application; the reporting suite application models the source data and produces summary tables the licence holder will use to determine existing seral stage distribution and levels of Mature plus Old Forest.

The target for Mature plus Old Forest must come from Old Growth Management Areas, Parks and connectivity corridors where they exist in the Landscape Unit. If the target cannot be met from these areas, then the deficit must be met outside of these areas. If the slope is >80% and located inside the connectivity corridor, the area will be considered outside the corridor for recruitment purposes.

Where there is still a deficit the licence holder will prepare a recruitment strategy for the Landscape Unit to meet the target in the shortest time frame. An alternative recruitment strategy, other than shortest time frame, can be utilized when the acquisition of fiber is required to maintain sufficient local levels of employment, provided a QRP assesses and documents how the alternate strategy maintains or improves benefits for Old Forest conservation, better meets Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order objectives 5, 8, 9 or conserves Caribou habitat.

The alternative recruitment will select from areas less than 80 percent slope using a sequence of priority deployment within the CFLB:

1. Inside inoperable forest and inside the connectivity corridor.
2. Inside operable forest and inside the connectivity corridor.
3. Inside inoperable forest but outside the connectivity corridor.
4. Inside operable forest but outside the connectivity corridor.

Areas selected by an alternative recruitment strategy will be tracked spatially as harvest reserves on the AWP database system, as a link to a read-only map.

### **Collaborative Planning:**

The license holder will share information and will discuss with other license holders, in shared landscape units, to ensure activities do not cause Mature plus Old targets to not be met.

### **5.1.3 Caribou**

Objective: To retain seasonal habitats for Mountain Caribou in order to contribute to maintaining viability of the existing subpopulations according to forest cover requirements in the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order.

Legal Reference: KBHLPO, Objective 3 (replaced by variance Order KBHLP-04) and the addition of Variance 6, GAR's 9(2) and 12(1).

Relates to: s 5.3.4 of this document.

#### **Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

KBHLPO Objective 3 was cancelled and replaced with GAR ORDER – Ungulate Winter Range #U-4-012 Mountain Caribou – Southwest Kootenay Planning Unit, under the authority of GAR section 9(2) and 12(1) February 12, 2009. ORDER – Ungulate Winter Range #U-4-012 was subsequently replaced December 9, 2009.

The license holder will comply with these GAR Orders.

### **5.1.4 Green-up**

Objective: To establish a Green-up under the stipulations of KBHLPO, Objective 4.

Legal Reference: KBHLPO, Objective 4.

#### **Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

The licence holder will comply with Objective 4 of KBHLPO.

### **5.1.5 Grizzly Bear Habitat and Connectivity Corridor**

Objective: To maintain mature and/ or old forests adjacent to important grizzly bear habitat and within connectivity.

Legal Reference: KBHLPO – Objective 5

Relates to: s 5.3.5 of this document for FDU's and LU's covered by Grizzly GAR.

**Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

The licence holder will comply with Objective 5 of KBHLPO.

### 5.1.6 Consumptive Use Streams

Objective: To reduce the impacts of forest development on streams licensed for human consumption.

Legal Reference: KBHLPO – Objective 6

Relates to: s 5.2.4 and 5.2.6 of this document

**Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

Definitions for the purpose of this section:

- “Activities” in objective 6(1)(a)(i) of the KBHLPO means primary forest activities.

The holder will undertake to comply with Objective 6 of the KBHLPO.

For each S5 and S6 stream where the streamside management zone applies, the holder will plan and implement primary forest activities only if, in the opinion of a QRP, implementing the plan;

- a. Will not cause material that is harmful to human health to be deposited in, or transported to, water that is diverted for human consumption by a licensed waterworks, and
- b. Will not damage a licensed waterworks.
- c. Will not result in locating stream crossings within 50m (slope distance) upslope of known intakes unless there is no practicable option.
- d. Will result in re-vegetating of cut banks and fill slopes within one growing season following disturbance (as soil and weather conditions allow). See the grass seeding measures portion of Section 6.1 of this document for details.

### 5.1.7 Enhanced Resource Development Zones (ERDZ)

Objective: To support forest management for the purpose of increasing volumes of merchantable timber and to reduce industry costs while maintaining adequate environmental stewardship.

Legal Reference: KBHLPO – Objective 7; FPPR s 65(3) (a) & 65(3) (b)ii

**Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

The licence holder will comply with Objective 7 of KBHLPO. The minimum green-up height will be as per section 5.2.7 of this FSP.

### 5.1.8 Fire Maintained Ecosystems

Objective: To restore and maintain the ecological integrity of fire-maintained ecosystem components in Natural Disturbance Type (NDT) 4.

Legal Reference: KBHLPO – Objective 8

Applicable FDU: None

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

The map has not been established through the KBHLPO for this objective and therefore the fire maintained ecosystem objective is not in effect as of the FSP submission date.

### 5.1.9 Visuals

Objective: To conserve the quality of views from communities, major waterways, and major highways by establishing areas known as scenic areas.

Legal Reference: KBHLPO – Objective 9

Relates to: s 5.2.9, 5.3.1, and 5.4.2 of this document

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

See Section 5.3.1 of this document.

## 5.2 Objectives prescribed under FRPA sec. 149(1)

### 5.2.1 Soils

Objective: The objective set by government for soils is to conserve the productivity and the hydrologic function of soils.

Legal Reference: FPPR section 5 and 12.1(1)

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

The license holder will comply with Forest Planning and Practices Regulation section 35 and 36.

In a situation where a block contains existing road and the 7% PAS is exceeded (at the planning/pre-harvest stage), then a QRP will identify this in a rationale, which will be kept in the holder's files.

If the Permanent Access Structures (PAS) built by the holder exceeds 7%, then a QRP will write a rationale at the development layout stage which identifies why this disturbance level is exceeded. This limit will be set in accordance with Section 36(1) or (2) of the FPPR. Where the PAS exceeds 7% (typically smaller blocks with roads which access further cut blocks), the holder

will specify this in the Site Plan, and will prepare a rationale. The rationale will be kept on record in the holder's office.

The site plan will identify when activities are limited by weather or seasonal conditions that increase the potential for soil degradation.

### 5.2.2 Wildlife

Objective: The objective set by government for wildlife is to conserve sufficient wildlife habitat in terms of amounts of area, distribution of areas and attributes of those areas, for the survival of species at risk, the survival of regionally important wildlife, and the winter survival of specified ungulate species.

Legal Reference: FPPR sec. 7 and GAR's 9-13

Relates to: s 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.3.4, and 5.3.5 of this document

### 5.2.3 Species at Risk

Pursuant to section 7(3) of the FPPR, the license holder is exempt from the obligation to prepare results or strategies in relation to the objective set out in section 7(1) of the FPPR given the established Wildlife Habitat Areas address the amount of area required to meet habitat requirements and specify general wildlife measures to maintain the identified wildlife within those areas. Requirements are met with respect to WHA for Interior Western Screech Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker and Grizzly Bear. The Coeur d' Alene Salamander and Flammulated Owl are the exception, where the required amount and distribution of Wildlife Habitat Areas have not been satisfied.

FPPR section 7 notices are tracked at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/notices/sar.html>

Species at risk, for which the license holder will provide special management are listed as Red or Blue by the Ministry of Environment, or as Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern (listed on Species at Risk Public Registry schedule 1) by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. The Schedule 1 can be found at the following website:

[http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/species/schedules\\_e.cfm?id=1](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/species/schedules_e.cfm?id=1)

SAR Accounts and Measures documents for identified wildlife can be found at:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/iwwms/accounts.html>

#### **Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

Annual training will be conducted by the license holder to support the license holder's staff and contractors in identifying species at risk and wildlife habitat. Training will involve the identification of species at risk, habitat attributes, habitat suitability, reporting and best management practices.

The British Columbia Species and Ecosystem Explorer Tool will be incorporated into the training and utilized to generate information on species and ecological communities, including conservation or legal status, and spatial distribution.

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html>

**Reporting:**

Should any of the species at risk be observed outside of known occurrence sites, the license holder will notify the Conservation Data Center and inform them of the occurrence. This reporting will be done within 30 days from the time at which the species is observed.

The British Columbia Conservation Data Centre: Data Submissions website will be utilized to submit observations of species at risk - <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc/contribute.html>

**Practice:**

In an effort to reduce the impact of forest development on species at risk, during the planning process, the license holder will review known species at risk occurrences and their proximity to development areas. Where there are known species at risk in proximity to development areas, best management practices as found within the British Columbia Species and Ecosystem Explorer Tool will be used to ensure that proposed development activities are planned and carried out in compliance with various other legislation, regulation and policies.

If a species at risk is encountered during operations, activities will be halted immediately and will not resume until a QRP has assessed and provided recommendation. Continuance of operational activities is to be consistent with the recommendations of the QRP.

The license holder will ensure, where there may be a conflict with a species at risk, the following best management practices will be used:

- The license holder will only conduct primary forestry activities consistent with the requirements in Wildlife Habitat Area orders.
- License holder's staff and contractors will be trained to identify potential wildlife habitat.
- Where possible, retain existing, natural habitats suitable for the species at risk.
- Strive to retain, restore, or enhance key habitat features.
- Seek the advice of a QRP if attempting to restore or enhance habitat.
- Document how the BMP's are addressed within a site plan.

### 5.2.3.1 Ungulate Winter Range

See section 5.3.2 and 5.3.4 of this document.

### 5.2.4 Water, Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity within Riparian Areas

Objective: The objective set by government for water, fish, wildlife and biodiversity within riparian areas is to conserve, at the landscape level, the water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and biodiversity associated with those riparian areas.

Legal Reference: FPPR s. 8, 12.1(2), 12(3), 47-51, 52(2) and 55-58

Section 53 of the FPPR applies to designated Temperature Sensitive Streams. There are no designated Temperature Sensitive Streams in the FDU areas at present.

#### Practice Requirements – Results or Strategies

The holder will comply with FPPR s. 47-51, 52(2), 53 and 55-58.

The following result satisfies the requirement of FPPR 12(3):

- a) When the holder harvests cut blocks or constructs roads, tree retention levels for the riparian management zone are as follows:

**Table 2: Riparian Class and Riparian Management Zone Stem Retention.**

Riparian Class	<u>Minimum</u> Percentage (%) of MERCHANTABLE stems	<u>Minimum</u> 100 stems per hectare to be retained – NON MERCHANTABLE*
S1 – A	20	All
S1 – B, S2, S3, S4, S5	10	
S6	>0	
All Wetlands & Lakes	10	

\* Non-merchantable vegetation selected to be retained includes Live windfirm conifer and/or deciduous trees, greater than 1.3m in height, and less than 17.5cm DBH. The role of these trees and vegetation are for aiding in the conservation of water quality, fish habitat (if present), wildlife habitat, and biodiversity. Stems will be concentrated first within the 5 m machine free zone.

To clarify: Live Stem Retention is based on pre-harvest forest conditions; all riparian management area is measured as slope distance.

Classification will be determined by a qualified registered professional on each riparian feature within or immediately adjacent to a proposed harvest area. If a riparian feature is greater than the RMA from that harvest area, a riparian assessment will not be completed.

The location, dispersement and tree selection for retention within the RMZ will be determined on a site-specific basis by a QRP, considering local conditions (safety, windfirmness, prevailing winds, stream channel – integrity/ stability/erosion potential, forest health factors, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, licensed consumptive water use and intake locations, vegetation management and post-harvest silviculture treatments, coarse woody debris requirements, hydrologic/ terrain stability concerns, visual quality, shade requirements and timber/operational constraints).

In situations where 100% retention of part or all of the RMZ is prescribed (where Wildlife tree attributes exist), this will contribute to wildlife tree retention at the stand and landscape level.

If a situation arises, where adequate stand and understory does not exist (at the pre-harvest stage) to meet the requirements in Table 2, a QRP will be used to provide rationale and recommendations.

Logging slash accumulations which potentially could affect streamflow will be removed. Large natural woody debris already in the channel will not be removed. Construction of the designated crossings will be done in a manner that waste and overburden is disposed of outside the 5m zone. This includes designing and approaches as close to perpendicular as possible, minimizing loss or disturbance of riparian vegetation. Trees within the RMZ will be felled and yarded away from streams where practicable unless a safety hazard dictates otherwise.

The following six best management practices will be used on new roads and access structures within hydrologic proximity<sup>1</sup> of a classifiable riparian feature to prevent sediment from entering the feature:

- 1) Reduce the amount of bare erodible ground that is exposed and available to be eroded from precipitation and vehicle traffic by minimizing soil disturbance and using existing roads where possible.
- 2) Reduce the potential for exposed ground to be eroded by placing culverts and cross drainage consistent with natural drainage patterns.
- 3) Culvert installations will be constructed to ensure outflows moderate potential sediment transport through the use of riprap armor.
- 4) Carry out annual monitoring and maintenance of roads and structures.
- 5) Where a ditch line directly connects with a stream install sump traps and/or riprap to moderate potential sediment transport.
- 6) Bridges will be designed higher than the road grade where practicable to prevent water on the road surface from transporting sediment onto the bridge deck and into the stream

### 5.2.5 Fish Habitat in Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds

<u>Objective:</u>	To conserve, at the landscape level, the water quality, fish habitat, and biodiversity associated with those riparian areas.
<u>Legal Reference:</u>	FPPR sec. 8.1
<u>Applicable FDU:</u>	None

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

This objective is not applicable as there are no fisheries sensitive watersheds within the FDUs under this FSP.

### 5.2.6 Water in Community Watersheds

<u>Objective:</u>	The objective set by government for water being diverted for human consumption through a licensed waterworks in a community watershed is to prevent the cumulative hydrological effects of primary forest activities within the community watershed from resulting in a material adverse impact on the quantity of water or the timing of the flow of the water from the waterworks, or the water from the waterworks having a material adverse impact on human health that cannot be addressed by water
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<sup>1</sup> The flow path of natural drainage through topography, between a point and a stream, where surface water can flow unobstructed carrying sediment.

treatment required under an enactment, or the license pertaining to the waterworks.

Legal Reference: FPPR sec. 8.2, 59-63 & 84

Applies to: All FDUs with identified Community Watersheds.

### **Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

The holder will comply with FPPR sec. 59-63 & 84 and the following results or strategies:

If within community watersheds, and the license holder intends to proceed with harvesting and building roads, a QRP will assess the risk of those activities causing:

1. Material that is known to be harmful to human health to be deposited in or transported to water diverted for human consumption by a licensed waterworks, or
2. An increase in sediment delivery to the intake or causing sediment that is harmful to human health to enter a stream, lake or wetland from which the water is being diverted for human consumption.

If watershed risk is low based on a QRP review of the relevant and available site specific hydrologic information, a detailed watershed assessment is not required.

When a watershed assessment is completed, the license holder will follow the report 'Watershed Assessment and Management of Hydrologic and Geomorphic Risk in the Forest Sector' which will include one or more of the following:

- Identifying fans and delineating watersheds.
- Identifying elements-at-risk in watersheds and on fans, including potential climate change impacts.
- Identifying historical and current, hydrologic and geomorphic processes affecting runoff, the frequency and magnitude of peak flows, sediment delivery and sediment transport in a watershed to determine baseline conditions for future comparison.
- Identifying past natural and anthropogenic disturbance.
- A qualitative risk analysis that assesses the sensitivity of the watershed to changes in the magnitude and frequency of flow regime changes, increases in sediment delivery or changes to riparian function.
- Estimate changes in the risk (consequence and likelihood) to elements at risk, given past development/disturbance and future forest development, and their cumulative effects on water quality, quantity and timing of flow.
- Providing input to guide forest management planning at the watershed level.

Watershed Assessments will be considered relevant until appreciable change<sup>2</sup> has occurred beyond the limits of recommendations or thresholds established in the original assessment.

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<sup>2</sup> Appreciable change is defined as a change to the disturbance level within the watershed, either natural or unnatural, that could change the qualitative risk, to elements previously identified as at risk, and is measured by, in part by, using Equivalent Clearcut Area as one of the indicators of

Results of Hydrologic Assessments will be shared with water user groups, upon request. In cases where a meeting is held with water users, the details and recommendations are explained. Assessments are collaboratively planned with other forest licensees when the watershed is shared.

Recommendations from QRPs are incorporated into harvest/site plans which are established before all cutting permit and road permit applications. Monitoring of these practices is done as part of a mandatory established inspection program performed by company QRPs. At the completion of harvesting a block or building a road the company QRP will fill out and keep on record a post- harvest inspection to verify that the hydrological assessment recommendations have been completed.

### 5.2.7 Wildlife and Biodiversity – Landscape Level

Objective: The objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the landscape level is to the extent practicable, design areas on which timber harvesting is to be carried out that resemble, both spatially and temporally, the patterns of natural disturbance that occur within the landscape.

Legal Reference: FPPR sec. 9

Relates to: s 5.1.4 of this document

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

Pursuant to objective 4 of the KBHLPO, when the holder plans and designs harvesting, the holder will comply with sections 64 and 65 of the FPPR, except the 3m minimum height will be changed to 2.5m in s. 65(3)(a) and s. 65(3)(b)(ii).

This reduced 'green-up' height will not apply to community watersheds and visually sensitive areas.

### 5.2.8 Wildlife and Biodiversity – Stand Level

Objective: The objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the stand level is to retain wildlife trees.

Legal Reference: FPPR sec. 9.1

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

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cumulative hydrologic change. If a natural event, or human caused disturbance occurs after a watershed assessment is completed, it will be assessed by a QRP to see if a watershed assessment update is required.

The holder will comply with FPPR sec. 66 and 68. The holder will comply with FPPR sec. 67 with the following exceptions when rationalized by a QRP:

- The holder may use trees in the wildlife tree retention area to facilitate harvesting (i.e. for a 'tail hold')
- Felling and removal of a tree that is a safety hazard.
- To carry out wildland urban interface forest fuel reduction treatments.
- To remove damaged timber where a Wildlife Tree Retention Area is rendered ineffective<sup>3</sup> by natural damaging agents including wind, fire, insects or disease unless that tree has significant wildlife habitat value.
- Where timber is highly susceptible to insect damage<sup>4</sup>.
- For access requirements, where practicable alternatives do not exist.

If a wildlife tree retention area is removed, a replacement area of equal size within or adjacent to the block will be located with similar or better wildlife attributes.

### **Forest Cover Wildlife Habitat Attributes and Wildlife Trees:**

Trees of all species occurring within FDU's may be selected as wildlife trees. Selection may favor valuable wildlife tree attributes including signs of internal decay, trees with forks, large rotten branches, loose or cracked bark, recent scars, active wildlife use, existing cavities, nest trees, veteran trees and other large wind firm trees with poor form for sawlogs.

Preference will be given to locating wildlife tree retention area in sizes that provide interior habitat, less susceptible to windthrow, and in stands that contain or have a good likelihood of developing valuable wildlife tree attributes (as described above). To maintain biodiversity, an attempt will be made to preserve the representation of all tree species found throughout forest development units. Further attempt will be made to co-locate WTRA within riparian management area, ungulate winter range, old growth management area and other areas where harvesting constraints provide the best long term potential for stands to develop wildlife tree attributes associated with advanced age, only when other objectives are fully met.

Root disease centers may also be selected to provide a continuing supply of dead and dying trees to maintain coarse woody debris and biodiversity associated with stand openings. Sites with habitat features such as nesting, roosting, denning, spawning and squirrel middens may also be selected to provide protection of habitat critical to wildlife survival.

When Wildlife Trees are harvested, and the harvest area is mappable (greater than 0.25ha), the licence holder will specify one or more Wildlife Tree Retention Areas that provide an area, number of trees or habitat that is equivalent to the portion harvested. The licence holder will prepare a rationale for harvested Wildlife Trees and a map, which identifies the replacement Wildlife Trees and specifies how the replacement is equivalent to the harvested trees. The

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<sup>3</sup> Rendered ineffective means, in the opinion of a RPF, damaged to a degree that the Wildlife Tree Retention Area no longer has the attributes consistent with a mature seral condition, considering the original intent of the Wildlife Tree Retention Area.

<sup>4</sup> high or very high susceptible hazard class as indicated by a field assessment or on MFLNRO susceptibility mapping and/or as defined within a MFLNRO Forest Health Strategy and where the timber is within 200 meters of a current infested (>30%stems per hectare of the stand) area.

rationale will be shared with MFLNRO and documented in a Site Plan or Supporting Document and will be available upon request in referrals to First Nations.

### 5.2.8.1 Enhanced level of Coarse Woody Debris – Stand Level

Objective: Reduce carbon emissions and local smoke pollution and enhance mammal habitat opportunity.

Legal Reference: FPPR s. 9.1, 9.2, 66, 67, 68; GWM order # 8-373; Wildfire Act S. 7;  
OBSCR s. 10

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

The license holder will comply by constructing Wildlife Habitat Piles (WHP) to enhance small mammal (primary), large animal (secondary) habitat, and to reduce climate change impacts by decreasing the amount of short-term carbon emissions resulting from burning of carbon stored in trees.

A QRP will assess site levels of CWD. WHPs will be constructed and retained when:

1. Fire hazard abatement is not required;
2. Forest health agents are controlled with authorized treatment besides burning;
3. Motorized public access to the piles is removed;
4. Visual Quality Objectives are met;
5. Visible smoke pollution negatively impacts safety or public health;
6. Waste and Residue obligations are complete.

When conditions above are not met, WHPs will be burned or removed from the site.

WHPs will consist of stub trees <5meters and/or CWD from the local area including: processing, bucking, firm wood reject logs and/or poor quality logs resulting from timber harvesting, and/or excessive levels of pre-harvest CWD.

#### Primary Piles

Piles will be less than 5 meters wide and 2 meters high. Piles will be interconnected, where operationally possible, to support travel corridors between piles for mammal habitat/predation opportunity. Primary piles will have a density less than fifteen (15) per hectare.

#### Secondary Piles

The log loading area will contain a maximum of 1 pile per hectare.

### 5.2.9 Visual Quality

Objective: This objective set by government does not contain specific text within the FPPR as specified in other objectives set by government. This objective set by government has been established under GARs for the Arrow and Kootenay Lake TSAs.

Legal Reference: FPPR s. 9.2

Relates to: Sec. 5.1.9, 5.3.1 and 5.4.2 of this document.

#### **Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

See Section 5.3.1 of this document.

### **5.2.10 Cultural Heritage Resources**

Objective: To conserve, or, if necessary, protect cultural heritage resources that are the focus of a traditional use by an aboriginal people that is of continuing importance to that people, and not regulated under the Heritage Conservation Act.

Legal Reference: FPPR, sec. 10.

#### **Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

The license holder is committed to obtaining information of cultural heritage resources that may be impacted from cutting permit and/or road permit applications. Reasonable effort to obtain and share forest development information will be referred with First Nations.

A written notification with a map, detailed description of the referral area, and digital location files will be referred to the First Nation as indicated in the Consultative Areas Database. This referral will provide a minimum 30 day timeframe for First Nations groups to respond. The objective of this notice is to provide First Nations with an opportunity to identify areas of concern to ensure that concerns are addressed to the extent practicable prior to development of an area of crown land allocated for the license holder's forest development activities. The license holder will document and keep on record any cultural heritage resource information provided by the First Nations, this will include how planned activities will, to the extent practicable, accommodate identified heritage resources. Any cultural heritage resource information received will be kept confidential.

If any evidence of cultural heritage resources are observed, becomes known, or is brought to the license holder's attention, the appropriate archaeological / heritage authority and First Nations, if appropriate, will be consulted. An effort, to the extent practicable, will be made to conserve or protect the cultural heritage resource before forest development proceeds.

The current Archeology Overview Assessment model illustrates polygons with moderate, moderate-high and high potential in both the FDU's. These potentially archaeological sensitive polygons will be assessed by a QRP with an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA), Preliminary Field Reconnaissance (PFR), or another archaeological assessment method. The recommendations of these assessments will be incorporate in Harvest / Site plans.

It is understood that there is always a limited possibility that unknown archaeological sites exist in the FDU's. The Heritage Conservation Act protects both known and unknown archaeological sites. If an archaeological site is encountered during operations, activities will be halted immediately, and attempts will be made within 5 business-days to contact the appropriate archaeological/heritage authority and First Nations, if appropriate.

The license holder is not in a position to decide which of the First Nations with asserted traditional territory have greater strength of claim and will not endorse one First Nation over the others. There are multiple First Nations asserting traditional territory over the Arrow and Kootenay Lake Timber Supply Area as listed on the government Consultative Areas Database.

The license holder respects all of the First Nation's Aboriginal Interests equally, and will work towards fostering productive long-term relationships.

### 5.3 Objectives Prescribed Under the Government Actions Regulation (GAR)

#### 5.3.1 Visuals

Legal Reference: GAR's 7 and 17

Relates to: s. 5.1.9, 5.2.9 and 5.4.2 of this document

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

In the Arrow FDU, subject to when the holder plans and designs harvesting and road construction, the holder will comply with the scenic areas and visual quality objectives (VQO's) set by GAR Section 7 notice dated Dec. 31, 2005.

In the Kootenay Lake FDU, subject to when the holder plans and designs harvesting and road construction, the holder will comply with the scenic areas and visual quality objectives (VQO's) set by GAR Section 7 notice dated March 7, 2014 that establishes the VQO's for scenic areas.

If the established VQO are not expected to be met for forest health or other reasons then the license holder will apply to the DDM for an alternate result and/or strategy exemption under Section 12(7) of the FPPR.

The holder will conduct a Visual Impact Assessment, from significant public viewpoints, for planned developments that are located in an area with a VQO prior to applying for a cutting permit or road permit. Visual modification on a perspective scale will follow the guidance and strategies described in the Visual Impact Assessment Guidebook (2nd. Ed., January 2001) for those areas that are deemed to be located within a Visual Quality Objective of Preservation (P), Retention (R), Partial Retention (PR), or Modification (M). Management of visual quality will combine recommended percent alteration thresholds and legal definitions as per FPPR sec. 1.1 with cut block design and in-block retention of standing timber to achieve the established VQO.

#### 5.3.2 Ungulate Winter Range

Legal Reference: GAR's 9(2) & 12(1)

Relates To: s 5.2.3.2 of this document

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

The holder will comply with Order – Ungulate Winter Range #U-4-001. Information to demonstrate compliance to UWR requirements will be retained in the holder's office.

### **Collaborative Planning:**

When planning timber development in a shared Ungulate Winter Range Management Unit, and prior to applying for a cutting permit or road permit, the licence holder will share timber development plans with other Forest Licence holders in the management unit to ensure that the planned development does not cause the targets to not be met.

### **5.3.3 Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA)**

Objective: The minister responsible for the Wildlife Act by order may establish an area as a wildlife habitat area if satisfied that special management has not otherwise been provided for under Government Actions Regulations or another enactment, and the area is necessary to meet the habitat requirements of a category of species at risk or regionally important wildlife.

Legal Reference: GAR's 9(2) & 10(1)

Applicable to: Arrow FDU: LU N508 – Grizzly Bear; and LU's N503 and N507 – Western Screech Owl; LU N504 - Lewis Woodpecker

#### **Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

The holder will comply with practices consistent with the most current WHA ORDER(s): Grizzly 4-093 and 4-094, Western Screech Owl 4-209, 4-113, 4-114 and 4-115, and Lewis Woodpecker 4-303 and 4-304.

During the planning period, the license holder will review WHAs in proximity to development areas to meet the habitat requirements of identified wildlife.

### **5.3.4 Wildlife Habitat Features (WHF)**

Objective: An authorized person who carries out a primary activity must ensure that the primary forest activity does not damage or render ineffective a wildlife habitat feature.

Legal Reference: GAR order M213

#### **Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

The license holder will follow the guidance for managing wildlife habitat features as described in the Wildlife Habitat Features Order within the FDUs to ensure features are protected and continue to function as prior to primary forest activities. The established WHFs within the FDUs include:

1. a nest of a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
2. a nest of an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
3. a nest of a Flammulated Owl (*Psiloscops flammeolus*)

4. a nest of a Western Screech-Owl macfarlanei subspecies (Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei)
5. a nest of a Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias)
6. a nest of a Lewis's Woodpecker (Melanerpes lewis)
7. a nest of a Williamson's Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus thyroideus)
8. an American Badger burrow (Taxidea taxus)
9. a Grizzly Bear den (Ursus arctos)
10. a significant mineral lick
11. a significant wallow
12. a bat hibernaculum
13. a bat nursery roost
14. a hot spring or thermal spring

The license holder will not damage or render ineffective a WHF. Annual reporting of new locations or new features will be shared. Timing windows and measures to manage WHFs will be incorporated in operational plans and provided to contractors during pre-works.

### 5.3.5 Caribou

- Legal Reference: GAR's 9(2) & 12(1)
- Relates To: s 5.1.3 of this document
- Applicable to: Kootenay Lake FDU and Arrow FDU; LU N505.

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

The holder will comply with Ungulate Winter Range #U-4-012 Mountain Caribou – Southwest Kootenay Planning Unit.

### 5.3.6 Grizzly Bear

- Legal Reference: GAR's 9(2) & 12(1)
- Relates To: s 5.1.3 of this document
- Applicable to: Within the Arrow FDU in LU's N501, N502, N508, N509, N510 and N519 (i.e. West of the Columbia River)

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

The holder will comply with General Wildlife Measure Order #8-373 Grizzly Bear.

The holder will collect field data to identify site characteristics of Grizzly Bear habitat. This information is collected in each block where the BEC variant site series is applicable to the Grizzly GAR. The key site data that is collected is the vegetation, bear forage and coarse woody debris

with respect to distribution, quantity and distribution. Utilizing this information a QRP will write a Grizzly Bear Rationale to show compliance with the General Wildlife Measures.

## 5.4 Objective for Items Listed in Section 181 of FRPA

### 5.4.1 Interpretive Forest Sites, Recreation Sites or Recreation Trails

Objective: All objectives in respect to an interpretive forest site, a recreation site, and a recreation trail that were in effect immediately before the effective date are continued as objectives under Forest and Range Practices Act.

Legal Reference: FRPA s. 180 & 181

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

In an effort to minimize impacts to interpretive forest sites, recreation sites or recreation trails, the licence holder will develop operational plans consistent with the management strategies established for the sites or trails. Where the established management strategies are not practicable given the circumstances or conditions to a particular area, an exemption under section 16 of the Forest Recreation Regulation, from the requirement of section 56 of the Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA), will be applied for in relation to that area.

The licence holder will provide a written or emailed referral to a recreation group whenever there is proposed development (blocks or roads) within or immediately adjacent to a recreation site or trail. The license holder will work closely with the district Recreation Officer and/or recreational group to establish best management practices that will mitigate potential impacts. Including such measures as listed below:

- Signage will be erected notifying trail users of the industrial activity.
- Any direct impacts to access roads, sites or trails will be rehabilitated as close to their original state as possible, within a 2 year timeframe.
- If feasible, harvesting is to occur during periods of low use.
- Primary forest activities will be carried out, to the extent practicable, by avoiding damage to vegetation other than commercial timber and the removal of safety hazards.

### 5.4.2 Visual Quality Objectives

Legal Reference: FRPA s. 180 & 181

Relates to: s. 5.1.9, 5.2.9 and 5.3.1 of this document.

FDU: Kootenay Lake

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

## 6. Measures

### 6.1 Measures for Preventing the Introduction or Spread of Invasive Plants

Legal Reference: FPPR s. 17, FRPA s. 47 and Invasive Plant Regulation

FDU: All

#### Practice Requirements - Measures

The following measures from the Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) will be implemented to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive plants that may result from the license holder forest practices:

##### Training:

Annual invasive plant species training will be conducted to help field staff and contractors identify the priority invasive plants, as listed in the 'Best Practices for Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants during Forest Management Activities, 2013 Edition':

<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/plants/publications/Forestry-BP-09-11-2013-WEB.pdf>

Training will involve the identification of invasive plants, awareness of the location of known infestations currently in the IAPP Program, reporting requirements and how to incorporate best management practices to reduce introduction or spread.

Records of these annual training sessions are kept in the license holder's office.

ATCO participates in the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant committee and utilizes the committee to provide guidance on management strategies for targeted invasive plants.

##### Reporting:

Should any of the field identified sites observed outside of known infestation areas, the license holder will use the Report-A-Weed website to inform the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (within 30 days) of the occurrence:

<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/HRA/plants/raw.htm>

##### Practice:

In an effort to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive plants, during the planning process, the license holder will review the Invasive Alien Plant Program data for known infestations and their proximity to development areas. This information will be used to plan activities, whereby, operational plans will be developed and used to communicate with staff and contractors the location of known infestations.

Where there are known infestations in proximity to development areas, best management practices will apply. Operational plans (ie Harvest Plans) will include BMPs to reduce the

risk of creating new or spreading existing infestations. The license holder will ensure, where the introduction or spread of invasive plants is likely, the following best management practices will be used:

- If feasible avoid infested areas, otherwise, work non-infested areas first and infested areas last.
- If feasible, work infested areas during conditions of frozen soil or level of snowpack to limit scalping/ seedbed creation.
- Contractors will be directed to clean invasive plant propagules and seed from equipment before moving to a new site, including the removal of all plant parts and soil to eliminate the risk of introduction or spread to other areas.
- Minimize soil disturbance.
- Within a year following disturbance on new permanent roads (cuts and fills), but not exceeding two years on other new Cutting/ Road Permit sections (where there is adequate mineral soil exposure), to reduce the available seedbed for invasive plants by grass seeding.
- Establish well stocked stands of trees that will eventually suppress invasive plants.

**Grass seeding measures:**

- Assure there is a minimum 30% germination success of grass seeding.
- Grass seeding will be done in the spring and or fall when climatic conditions are best for seed catch.
- Obtain certified grass seed (Canada Common #1 or better) from reputable suppliers to ensure premium quality free of invasive plant seed.

## 6.2 Mitigating the Loss of Natural Range Barriers

Legal Reference: FPPR s. 18, FRPA s. 48

### **Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

Before the licence holder applies for a permit to harvest timber or construct road within a known range tenure, the licence holder will notify the applicable range tenure holders and make reasonable efforts to obtain information of natural range barriers may be impacted. The notification may include, but is not limited to, information sharing the identified proposed timber harvesting and/or road construction for a referral period of not less than 30-days. If a range agreement tenure holder indicates that a proposed road or cutblock will remove or render ineffective a natural range barrier, the licence holder will, as soon as practicable:

- a) take reasonable efforts necessary to come to an agreement with the range agreement tenure holder to mitigate the effect of removing or rendering ineffective natural range barriers, and
- b) discuss potential mitigation plans with Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and
- c) Implement the measures.

## 7. Additional FSP Information

### 7.1 Stocking Standards

Legal Reference: FPPR s. 16, 44, and 197

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

The license holder elects to use the Selkirk Resource District South Columbia default stocking standards and Fire Management / Wildland Urban Interface stocking standards. These standards are currently in a state of refinement; consequently these adopted stocking standards may be amended from time to time.

In addition, the license holder elects to use stocking standard ID: 1057453.

FRPA section 197 elections for stocking standards has been enabled to allow for any forest development plan or former FSP cut block stocking standards to be amended to the applicable FSP stocking standards.

In the extraordinary case where these stocking standards can't be achieved on a specific block or site; then a QRP will write and submit (for approval) a rationale for an amendment to the Delegated Decision Maker. It should be noted that this situation is expected to occur on a rare basis (i.e. less than 5 times over the term of this plan).

### 7.2 Cumulative Effect of Multiple FSP's

Legal Reference: FPPR s 19

The FSP must address the cumulative effect of having multiple FSP's in the same area

#### Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies

The license holder will establish a reciprocal arrangement to communicate its intentions to other licensees who operate in the same Landscape Units (LUs) ; to proactively address and resolve the following issues (if applicable) prior to cutting permit or road permit application:

- In shared biodiversity Landscape Units; the holder will determine numbers to show compliance of old, and mature plus old targets as per the results and strategies outlined in Section 5.1.2 of this document.
- On shared Ungulate Winter Range units; the numbers to show compliance with snow interception coverage and forage area requirements will be determined as per Sections 5.3.2 and 5.3.4 of this document.
- With shared watersheds, licensees will compare Equivalent Clearcut Calculations or Hydrologic Assessments (within CWs) to rationalize accordance with legal objectives.
- In shared viewsapes; the holder will share visual data with the other licensee(s) to demonstrate compliance with visual objectives.
- Records of biodiversity, UWR and watershed information will be kept on record at the Atco Forestry office.

- If the holders of a FSP, within an area with multiple FSP's, are unable to reach an agreement for sharing the responsibility to obtain results consistent with objectives set by government then request would be made to the minister to act under section 9 of the FRPA.

### 7.3 Special Trees Protection

Legal Reference: Special Tree Protection Regulation (FRPA)

#### **Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

The license holder will comply with the Special Tree Protection regulation of specified tree species notification and size schedule and within 30 days of discovery.

### 8. Public review and Comment

Legal Reference: FPPR s. 19

#### **Practice Requirements - Results or Strategies**

##### **Forest Development Referrals:**

The licence holder is committed to continual information sharing and will refer all forest development plans to potentially affected stakeholders whose rights may be affected by a proposed development. A written notification with a map illustrating the location of planned forest development will be referred to potentially affected stakeholders. The written notice will provide stakeholders with a minimum 30 day review and comment period prior to cutting permit or road permit application. The notice may be reduced to 10 days if timber is dead, infested with pests or otherwise damaged; and must be harvested expeditiously to prevent spread of pests or declining timber value due to deterioration of quality.

The objective of this notice is to provide potentially affected stakeholders with an opportunity to identify areas of concern, and to ensure that concerns are addressed to the extent practicable prior to the development of an area of crown land allocated for the licence holder's primary forest activities. The licence holder will document and keep on record any information provided by the stakeholder, this will include how planned activities will or will not accommodate identified concerns.

##### **Public Referrals:**

The licence holder will maintain the following Forest Stewardship website link:

[https://www.atcwoodproducts.com/responsibility/forest\\_stewardship\\_plan](https://www.atcwoodproducts.com/responsibility/forest_stewardship_plan)

The website link provides access to the approved Forest Stewardship Plan and accompanying maps, on which the public and stakeholders are able to identify where the licence holders primary forest activities will take place.

Continual information sharing will ensure transparency and open a communication path through which public and stakeholders' concerns can be made known, so concerns can be addressed prior to the development of an area for crown land allocated for the licence holder's primary forest activities. Comments specific to the Forest Development Units and Operating Areas will be accepted anytime and will be recorded and kept on record to ensure that comments are considered at the development stage.

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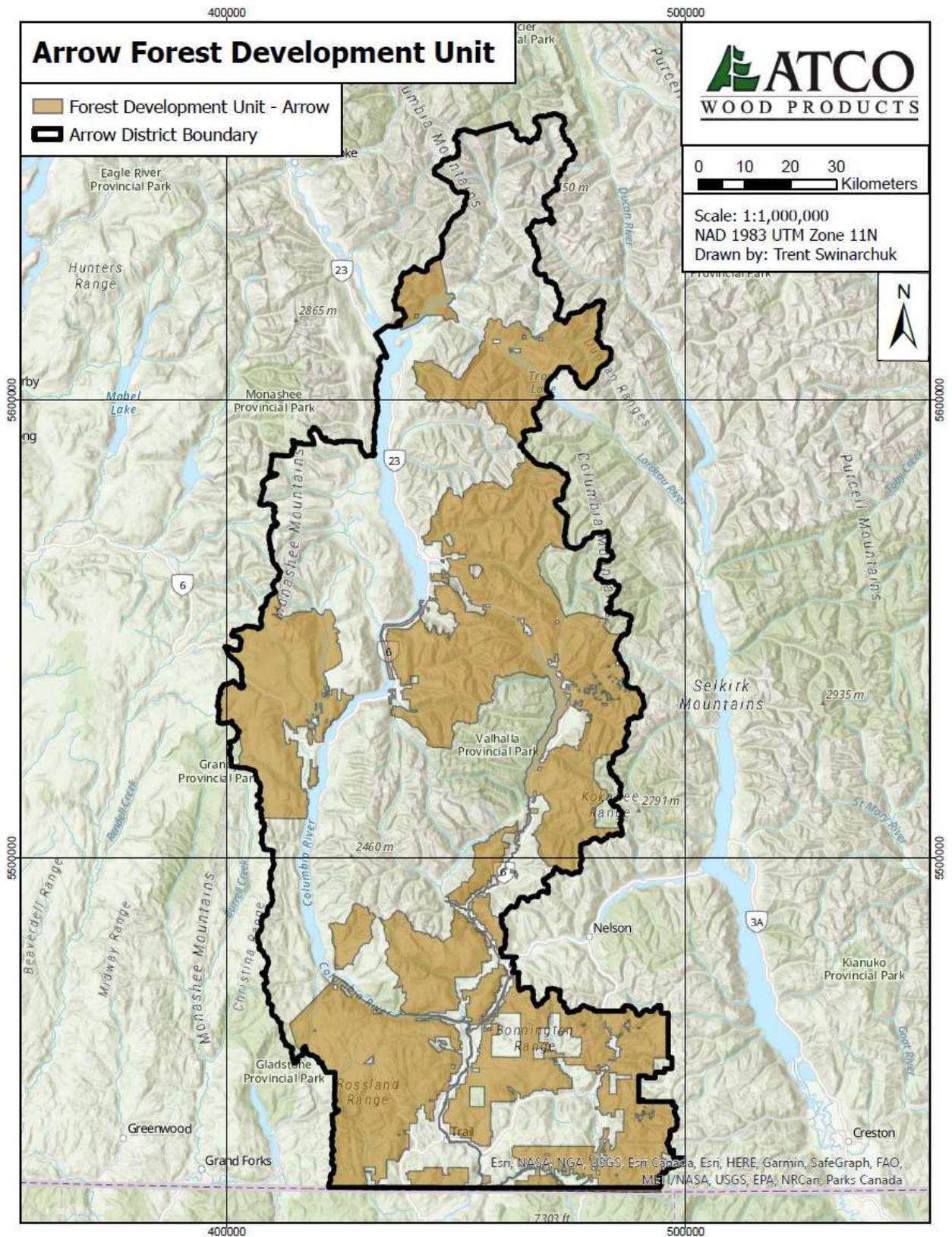
<https://www.egbc.ca/getmedia/8742bd3b-14d0-47e2-b64d-9ee81c53a81f/EGBC-ABCFP-Watershed-Assessment-V1-0.pdf.aspx>

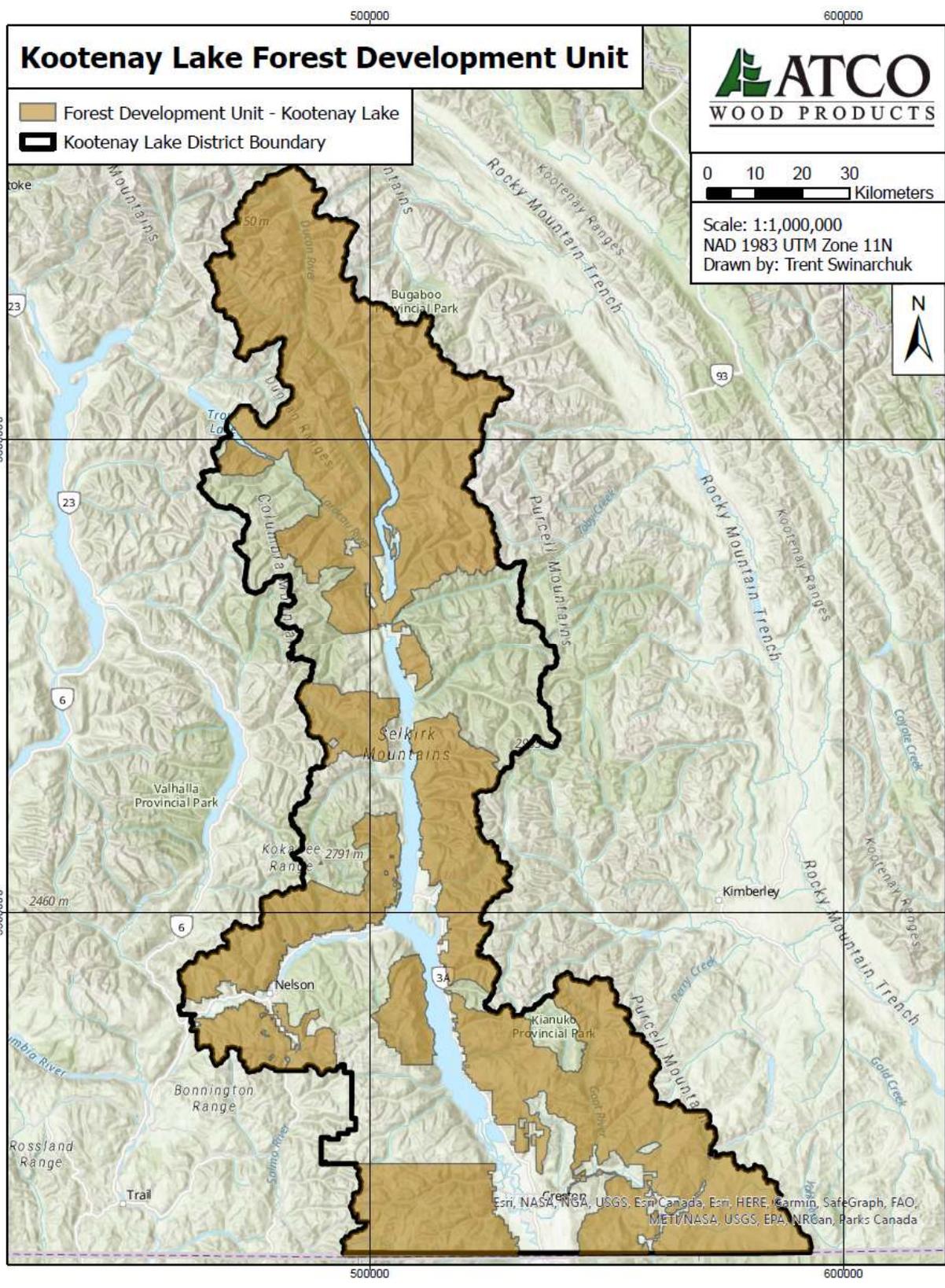
Water Sustainability Act.

Wildlife Act.

# 10. Appendices

## I. Arrow and Kootenay Lake FDU Maps





## II. Referral List

<p><b>Utilities</b></p>	<p>BC Hydro Columbia Basin Fish &amp; Wildlife Compensation Program Columbia Power Corporation Fortis BC – Gas Fortis BC – Electricity Teck Metals</p>	<p><b>Recreation &amp; Societies</b></p>	<p>Beaver Mountain Snowmobile Association Beaver Valley Cross Country Ski Club Big Red Cats Blackjack Cross Country Ski Club Castlegar Nordic Ski Club Castlegar Snowmobile Association Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Society Chamber of Mines Friends of the Rossland Range Kootenay Columbia Trail Society Kootenay Experience Nelson Cycling Club Nelson Nordic Ski Club Nelson Sno-Goers Red Mountain Resort Salmo Ski Hill Salmo Valley Trail Society Salmo Stream Keepers Snowwater Heli Skiing Trail Wildlife Association West Kootenay Snow-Goers West Kootenay Recreational Dirt Bike &amp; ATV Society Whitewater Ski and Winter Resort Trapping License Holders</p>
<p><b>First Nations</b></p>	<p>Ktunaxa Nation Council Okanagan Nation Alliance Lower Similkameen Indian Band Okanagan Indian Band Osoyoos Indian Band Penticton Indian Band Shuswap Band Little Shuswap Lake Band Splitsin First Nation Upper Nicola Indian Band Neskonlith Indian Band Adams Lake Indian Band West Bank First Nation</p>	<p><b>Municipal Government</b></p>	<p>City of Castlegar City of Nelson City of Rossland City of Trail Village of Fruitvale Village of Montrose Village of Salmo Village of Warfield</p>
<p><b>Forest Licensees</b></p>	<p>BCTS - Kootenay Interfor – Castlegar division Kalesnikoff Lumber</p>	<p><b>Regional Government</b></p>	<p>Regional District Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) Regional District Central Kootenay (RDCK)</p>
<p><b>Provincial Government</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Energy and Mines Ministry of Environment Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Ministry of Transportation – Avalanche and Weather Programs Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure</p>	<p><b>Community Watershed Groups</b></p>	<p>Beaver Falls Waterworks District Blewett Conservation Society Blewett Watershed Committee Eagle Creek Water Users Committee Genelle Improvement District Taghill Water User Committee Georama Road Water Users Sandy Granite Water Users Committee Glade Irrigation District Glade Watershed Protection Society Robson Raspberry Improvement District Oasis Rivervale Improvement District Ymir Community Watershed Society</p>

Note: Atco Wood Products Ltd. has established and maintained a long-standing working relationship with respect to forest development in various community watersheds. Due to the lack of specific proposed developments shown in each FDU, individual water license holders will not be provided with a direct referral letter during the public advertisement of this FSP. They will be notified of proposed development activities as the stand level developments are proposed within the larger FDUs. Public referral opportunity is provided in newspaper advertisement.

### III. Stakeholder Referral Letters

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#### IV. Public Review and Comment

Date		Name	Affiliation	Type	Comment Received and Atco's Response ("—" "dash)	Reply letter &/or map
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**V - FSP Amendment Log**

**Tab Reference Sheet**

Tab #	FSP Tracker #	FSP Amend #	Comment/Description